

EXAMINER'S COMMENT

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because informal drawings have been submitted along with 371 application. The examiner suggests that new formal drawings with all item label descriptions should be submitted. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Deditch (Reg. No. 33,865), the undersigned, on May 16, 2008.
4. The application has been amended as follows:
- IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims of the invention have been amended as follows:

1.- 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a function to be implemented at a terminal of a control unit, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting the function to be implemented from one of at least two different functions by using a predefinable code for providing an implemented function; and

suppressing other ones of the at least two different functions, wherein the predefinable code includes information pertaining to a waiting time corresponding to a period of time after which a switch is made from the function to be implemented to a further function of the at least two different functions, the further function being suppressed during the period of time;

wherein suppressing the at least two different functions is done without resetting any hardware arrangement.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the at least two functions are implemented by at least two different signals applicable to the terminal of the control unit, one signal of the at least two different signals of the function to be implemented is selected by the predefinable code and applied to the terminal, and other ones of the at least two different signals are suppressed.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein one function of the at least two functions is implemented by a signal applicable to the terminal of the control unit, the signal of the function to be implemented is selected by the predefinable code and applied to the terminal, and other ones of the at least two different functions are suppressed.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein one of the at least two functions includes a use of the terminal of the control unit for providing a bidirectional communication connection of another control unit to the control unit.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) A device for selecting a function to be implemented at a terminal, the device comprising:

a processor;

a first function path for implementing a first function; and

at least another function path for implementing at least another function;

wherein the first function path and the at least another function path run over at least two other different terminals of the processor, the first function path and the at

least another function path being connected and being routed directly to the terminal, wherein:

the first function is selected for implementation by using a predefinable code for providing an implemented function, and the predefinable code includes information pertaining to a waiting time corresponding to a period of time after which a switch is made from the first function to be implemented to the other function, the other function being suppressed during the period of time;

wherein the other function is suppressed without resetting any hardware arrangement.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, further comprising an arrangement for selecting and clearing a function path of a function to be implemented independently of the predefinable code and for suppressing the at least another function path.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the first function includes a signal output unidirectionally over the first function path.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 15, wherein the at least another function includes communicating bidirectionally with a computer unit over the at least another function path.

19 - 20. (Canceled)

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

5. Claims 10-13 and 15-18 (renumbered as 1-8) are allowable over the prior art of record.

6. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on 25 April 2008 with respect to the amended claim limitations and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment (see attached) point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip B. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip B Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2155
May 25, 2008